

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2429
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
FOODGRAIN BASED SCHEMES FOR HOMELESS
Rana Shri Kashi Ram

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes being run to provide foodgrains for homeless people in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has made assessment about the working and impact of these schemes;
- (c) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to make these schemes more effective?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) Following are the Schemes which provide foodgrains for homeless people are:

(1) Antodaya Anna Yojna (AAY): Antodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) was launched in December, 2000 for the poorest of the poor families, from amongst BPL families covered under TPDS in the States and Union Territories. These families are issued foodgrains at highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2/-per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/-per kg. for rice. The States/UTs are required to bear the distribution cost, and make available foodgrains to the beneficiaries at the price fixed by Government of India as above. The scale of issue is 35 kg per family per month with effect from 1st April, 2002.

(2) 5% of BPL allocation to Hostels/Welfare Institutions: With a view to meet requirement of Hostels / Welfare Institutions viz. N.G.Os / Charitable Institutions which help shelter less/ homeless poor and other categories not covered under TPDS or under any other Welfare Scheme, an additional allocation of foodgrains (rice and wheat) equal to 5% of the BPL allocation of each State/UT is made to States/UTs at BPL rates. This Scheme was introduced during 2002-03.

(3) Annapurna Scheme: For indigent senior citizens of 65 years of age or above who though eligible for old age pension under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) but are not getting the pension, are covered and 10 kgs. foodgrains per person per month are supplied free of cost under this scheme. Implementation of the Scheme is done by States/UTs.

(b) & (c): While evaluation of AAY along with TPDS was covered in the study done by ORG MARG, for the other two schemes no specific evaluation studies have been taken up. The ORG MARG report mentioned that more than 90% of AAY families were dependent on ration shops for foodgrains, foodgrains earmarked for AAY were intact and sold as per prescribed issue prices, and 85% AAY households lifted rice under the scheme.

(d): Improvement of implementation of AAY is being attempted as part of 9-Point Action Plan for strengthening of TPDS (copy annexed). Implementation of the other two welfare schemes is periodically reviewed by the Government with State Governments/ UTs Governments.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2429 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2007 IN THE LOK SABHA

ACTION PLAN FOR STRENGTHENING OF TPDS

- (i) Continuous review of the BPL and AAY lists to eliminate bogus ration cards and to ensure coverage of only eligible BPL and antodaya families.
- (ii) Ensuring leakage-free and diversion-free distribution of PDS commodities, regular inspection by different levels of functionaries, strict action against guilty persons/agencies.
- (iii) Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in PDS operations - PRI representatives on Advisory Committees, running of fair price shops by Panchayats and effective representation of Panchayati Raj representatives on Vigilance Committees.

(iv) Ensuring transparency in working of PDS, display of BPL and AAY lists by fair price shops, observance of notified timings by fair price shops.

(v) Use of Information Technology, Computerization of TPDS operations, display of fair price shop-wise and district wise allocations of PDS commodities on web-sites for public scrutiny.

(vi) Carryout door-step delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops

(vii) Ensuring timely availability of and issuance of foodgrains by fair price shops.

(viii) Creating awareness among public about PDS operations, training Vigilance Committees of intricacies of PDS operations.

(ix) Making fair price shops financially viable entities - allowing them to sell non PDS items etc.